

United Way Makes a Difference Every Day!

United Way of Central Massachusetts touches the lives of more than 66,000 people every year.
Carlos is one of those people.

United Way Makes a Difference in Our Community!



Carlos' Story



CONNECTING PEOPLE AND RESOURCES TO IMPROVE THE COMMUNITY

Carlos' Story



Carlos lived with his disabled mother in an apartment. He worked hard and helped out around the house, paying half of the rent while she paid the other half. When social security discontinued his mother's benefits claim, she had no other income and Carlos and his mother were effectively homeless in a very short time. They moved from motel to motel for several weeks before Carlos visited the Friendly House.

Friendly House is a program whose mission statement supports "the educational, social and family betterment of residents of the City of Worcester." This program helps people to help themselves, generate self-reliance and increase their quality of life. The strengthening of the finest family standards and the highest American ideals is the underlying educational purpose of Friendly House. When Carlos entered the Friendly House program, he was reminded that he was not alone in his situation.

Josephina Velez, Director of Social Services at Friendly House states that on any given night there are between two- and three-hundred families and children within their shelter program. Even with the sheer number of people within them, the Friendly House was able to provide not only housing support but emotional support to Carlos and his mother.

Friendly House provides opportunities for individuals to realize their potential for a full life through self-direction and growth. Carlos is just one example of this mission and how it is executed. Through their assistance, Carlos and his mother were able to move into a new apartment and begin another chapter of their lives. In Carlos' own words, they "finally...got a home."

Carlos is grateful to the United Way of Central Massachusetts for its contributions, which in part, fund programs like Friendly House. He encourages individuals and companies to continue to give to United Way so that we can provide services like the one that helped stabilize his life in the future.

ABOUT THE FRIENDLY HOUSE PROGRAM: Friendly House/Settlement House (multi-service center) works with entire families both nuclear and extended, as an integrating force for the families and the Neighborhood(s) it serves. Friendly House provides a continuum of comprehensive coordinated neighborhood basic services to inner-city families.

To view Carlos' interview on Vimeo, go to <https://vimeo.com/111454562>

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